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## THE FEW, THE MANY...

The controversial Quebec-Cree Memorandum of Understanding was finally signed by Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come and Minister Guy Chevrette on March 27 in Montreal. All Chiefs except for Matthew Mukash of Whapmagoostui were also in attendance.

Like Kenny Blacksmith said, I am not against the community projects, but rather against the Quebec MOU process itself. Personally I do believe there is room for improvement in the Cree government and entities. Nothing on this mother earth is perfect after all.

However, I do believe that control of these important changes is the right of all Cree beneficiaries and not just a select few. I also believe that initially Quebec should not be a part of those changes. Would the PQ government be willing to have the federal government come in and review all of Quebec's institutions? I don't think so. Then why do they have that right to do so with the Crees? It seems to me this part of the MOU is just another return to patriarchal, racist colonialism.

Yes, any changes will be subject to "Cree consent." But who are the Crees who will be asked to give their consent. At the press conference, I asked Chief Billy Diamond what Cree consent means. He said it means the signatories of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. In other words, only the Chiefs and Grand Council are needed to give "Cree consent." Forget that over 90 per cent of the Cree people voted to sign the JBNQA. It seems that at one time, everyone mattered, but now only the few do.

In fact, if you look at it from a political power standpoint, the Cree negotiator has great power over any Chiefs, Council/Board member or community who may oppose him. Projects are negotiated on a yearly basis and who's to say that the negotiator didn't do a great job for you just because you didn't get what your community needed.

But these things are just my opinion. The true decisions and choices ultimately belong to all Crees. If you want this situation to continue, then do nothing. If you do not, there are some things you can do. For example: a petition or resolution at this year's Annual General Assembly in Chisasibi that says a minimum of 60 per cent of the Cree people are needed to vote on any changes to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, Cree entities and institutions, or the Cree-Naskapi Act.

Another resolution could be that no Chief can be a negotiator. Not only does this position currently require that a Chief has to spend time away from the larger responsibilities to his or her people and community, but it gives them very little time to consult with their own people on issues that could affect them or the Cree Nation. Such a time away could have the potential result in something like a multi-million-dollar deficit for a community. Would such a thing affect judgement when at the negotiation table? A cash-starved negotiator might be willing to give up more than an independent negotiator. This is yet another potential conflict-of-interest that Chiefs have to take into account when accepting the job.

I am not saying that the present negotiator is doing any of this or has fallen prey to any of the above concerns that I raised. It is just that the potential for problems in the future is there. The potential of someone, who would be with morals or scruples, in such a position of power without restraints is one that would bode ill for the Cree Nation as a whole if this continues.

# CONTENTS 5 MOU SIGNED SMILES ALL AROUND 5 TAXES COMING? QUEBEC ATTACKS EXEMPTION GOING TO COURT FOREST ACT "ILLEGAL" 9 PROJECT OK NOTOK O AT ELIJAH'S CAMP

ON THE COVER
Elijah and Marion Cox
photo: Ernest Webb

design: Katerina Cizek APR. 10, 1998

After putting in a few hours on CBC North's Winshgaoug and Eyou Dibajimoun several weeks ago Christopher Stephen's voice, amidst some very cloak and dagger maneuvers, was suddenly and without explanation

to his audience, silenced.

It all started, quite innocently, with an interview Christopher had done for Cree@large (Issue 5.9, page 34) during the Christmas holidays. Long before he started working for the Corpse. In it Christopher answered some very personal and provocative questions on his likes and dislikes. One question in particular dealt with the person he despised the most. Chris, being Chris, answered as honestly as he could.

Chris was more than enthused to be appearing in the pages of The Nation and excitedly showed a final printout to his boss at the CBC. He was told he couldn't make such statements as a CBC employee. He was also warned that if Cree@large went to print as it was, he couldn't work there anymore.

Chris immediately called an editor at The Nation asking if it was possible to have the offending

statement deleted. The editor called the printer to see if anything could be done and was told the paper was ready to go and a reprint would cost one thousand dollars.

So you can see the dilemma we faced. Do we sacrifice a young journalist's career to save a thousand bucks or do we swallow our collective pride and pay the grand? Christopher and the editorial department opted to leave everything as it was. Chris told the CBC he was going and left for lunch in a huff with a CBC executive trailing behind him.

While all of this was taking place a mysterious female voice (could it have been a certain CBC executive?) with a distinctive accent called our printer to ask if it was still possible to change Cree@large and how much would it cost for a reprint.

Not too long after our printer told us of that mystery caller, we received a call from someone with, again, a distinctive accent asking how much we charge for a full page advertisement. The sales department was downstairs enjoying a well-deserved lunch so the caller was asked for her name and number. She refused to give them at first but finally reason prevailed and she gave in. It was the CBC. Our sales reps returned from



lunch and returned the call. The CBC offered to buy a full-page ad to replace Cree@large and pay for a reprint of the whole magazine. Another emergency editorial meeting was called and their very generous offer was refused within seconds.

Meanwhile at the CBC, calls were made between CBC North headquarters Yellowknife and Montreal with our hero Christopher caught in the middle. He found the whole situation too much to bear and he walked.

Chris wasn't an employee, or even freelancing, at the time he made those statements. He was an unemployed journalist in Val d'Or escorting an Eastmain elder who was scheduled to have an

What is Christopher up to these days? Is he sitting around at home listening to his taped CBC broadcasts longing for the days when he will once again rule the Cree airwaves? No, he's at home taking care of his two young daughters and son with another on the way and planning his future.

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## **Smiles all around at signing ceremony**

Love is in the air. Cree leaders were in a joking mood at a press conference held jointly with Natural Resources Minister Guy Chevrette in Montreal to sign the famous \$15-million "MOU" deal.

Everyone was feeling very upbeat, laughing it up and trying to make funny comments.

The journalists' probing questions did little to spoil the festive mood.

One by one, the chiefs sat down with Chevrette and signed on the dotted line.

Despite our best efforts, The Nation still has not been able to obtain a full breakdown of how much each Cree community will receive under the deal.

We have heard of grumbling that the communities of Mistissini, Chisasibi and Whapmagoostui got less than their populations warranted, while Waskaganish, the home town of the negotiator, Chief Billy Diamond, got far more.

At the press conference, Chevrette pronised to provide us with the full breakdown, but ministry officials have so far not followed up on the promise.

The Nation has filed an Access-to-Information request for the documents.

It was clearly a public-relations coup for the Parti Quebecois government. Chevrette said the deal will send a message around the world that his government and the Crees are getting along. He also kept emphasizing how great it would be to have joint partnerships on development projects with the

"I'm very happy (with the deal)," said Chevrette. "We can put before the eyes of the world the fact that we can work together. We want to establish a harmonious relationship and partnerships."

Diamond echoed this idea: "We have no

plans of leaving the Cree territory. Therefore, we have to find a way to coexist."

Asked by a reporter if this means Crees are open to new hydro-electric projects, Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come chose his words carefully. "There is room in the agreement for some sort of sharing of the resources of the land. That's something that's on the table. That'll be subject to negotiations," he replied.

"The issue of water rights is still an issue that is outstanding. The position of the Crees hasn't changed (on dams). But if you are looking at different forms of energy, then that is different. That is something new and we'll look at it."

One concern of some critics of the deal is that Quebec will use it to pressure Crees to keep quiet on sensitive political issues like sovereignty. We put the question to Robert Sauve, Assistant Deputy Minister of Natural Resources. "The intention in these negotiations is to go ahead with some development projects and issues that were identified (in the first Quebec-Cree agreement in 1995). There is no other intention behind it."

Sauve said he was unaware of any Quebec policy to deny Crees funds because of the Cree international campaigns against sovereignty and Great Whale.

On top of the \$15 million, Waskaganish and Eastmain are each getting \$1 million extra for community centres, and O.J. is getting \$750,000 toward the Cree Cultural Institute. Also, five communities are getting almost \$200,000 to study the effects of forestry. This money is to be split with the James Bay Advisory Committee.

Some of the \$15 million is also going to the JBCCS and Cree Trappers' Association.

-by Alex Roslin and William Nicholls

## INUIT, QUEBEC CLOSE TO SELF-GOV'T DEAL

The Inuit of Northern Quebec are on their way toward getting a regional assembly and self-government powers.

While the Crees were asking for more funding from Quebec, the Inuit were pursuing a different strategy.

In their negotiations with Quebec, they pressed for full jurisdiction in all areas affecting their region, Nunavik.

They had in mind something like Nunavut, the new territory being created out of the eastern half of the NWT.

After several years of talks, Makivik
Corp.'s Zebedee Nungak has announced that
a deal is imminent to create a Nunavik
Commission which will design a new
government for the region.

We'll give you more details in an upcoming issue.

## QUEBEC PROPOSES TAXES ON NATIVES

Quebec is proposing to do away with the Native tax exemption, after complaining that the exemption has led to fraud in Native communities.

In its broad new First Nations policy announced last week, the Quebec government says Native communities could reduce their "dependence" on outside governments by collecting taxes from their residents.

First Nations will be invited on a voluntary basis to start collecting taxes, according to the new policy, entitled, "Partnership, Development, Actions."

The proposal is buried at the very end of the 40-page policy report and was ignored by the media.

Another way to reduce dependence is also proposed: more resource development in First Nations territories, a new Aboriginal mining fund and Native participation in hydro projects.

As part of the new policy, Quebec is creating a \$125-million Native Development Fund, to be disbursed over five years.

Ottawa is matching this fund with another \$125 million.

The money is for economic development and community projects.

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## Congratulations!

The members of the Board of Compensation and the Education Fund Panel of the Board of Compensation wish to extend their congratulations to all of the recipients of the incentive awards. The following attained the highest standings in their categories:



#### **BACHELORS PROGRAM (HONOURS)**

(Additional Concentration)
Losty Mamianscum (Whapmagoostui)



#### **BACHELORS PROGRAM (3 YEARS)**

Susan Masty (Whapmagoostui)



#### **COLLEGE PROGRAM (3 YEARS)**

Frances Kawapit (Whapmagoostui)
Davey Bobbish (Chisasibi)



#### **COLLEGE PROGRAM (2 YEARS)**

Jane Petawabano (Mistissini) Charles Esau (Waskaganish) Rebecca Moore (Waswanipi)



#### **CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (COLLEGE)**

Lillian Rabbitskin (Chisasibi) Allan P. Neeposh (Mistissini)



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Best Wishes are offered to all in their present and future endeavors!



## LOGGING "IS AIDS TO OUR PEOPLE": CTA CREE LAWSUIT WOULD HALT LOGGING IN HALF OF QUEBEC

Passions are running strong because of the upcoming Cree lawsuit on forestry.

Cree trappers are pleased that something may finally be done, but for the logging companies, thousands of jobs and billions of dollars are at stake.

The Cree lawsuit, to be filed in May with Quebec Superior Court, will argue that Canada and Quebec have violated their promise to protect the Cree hunting and trapping way of life.. This promise is central to the lames Bay Agreement.

The court action will ask for a permanent injunction halting all forestry activities by a dozen companies in lyiyuuschii.

The court will be asked to declare the logging companies' timber-supply licenses, known as CAAFs, and the Quebec Forest Act of 1987 illegal and unconstitutional.

"The linchpin of the agreement is that the Crees were supposed to be allowed to continue to trap and hunt," said lawyer James O'Reilly, who is representing the Crees.

The lawsuit will also ask that forestry operations on Cree land be subject to environmental assessment, which isn't the case now. The court action will not specify a figure for compensation, but reserves the right to claim for damages later.

All Cree communities affected by forestry have agreed to the lawsuit, except for Waskaganish. Chief Billy Diamond has put off the community's meeting with the Grand Chief for unknown reasons.

A lot is at stake here. Forestry is Quebec's biggest industry. Cree officials estimate lyiyuuschii generates \$1.2 to \$1.8 billion in for-

estry revenues each year with virtually no compensation to the Cree people.

"This is the AIDS to our people. It's killing us," says Paul Dixon, a Cree Trappers' Association official who sits on the Cree Forestry Working Group. "While they were assimilating us in the residential schools, they were really working on our traplines."

Dixon said forestry has caused him and other trappers many "sleepless nights."

"Even my children are pestering me, asking if the white people are allowed to do this. I didn't know what to say. I don't want to raise them to hate anybody."

Asked how he feels about the lawsuit, Dixon replied, "I'm the happiest guy in James Bay. It's like we won the Stanley Cup. I'm happy because my grandfather, who passed away, talked about it (forestry)."

But he is also cautious. "We have complained about forestry for the past 20, 25 years, and the way the leaders have reacted, or not reacted, makes me hesitant to feel too happy about it now. I'm a trapper. My instinct is to wait until I have a sure kill."

Yves Barrette, owner of Barrette-Chapais Ltd, a major cutter on Cree land, isn't pleased with the lawsuit.

"I've invested here to stay. They're going to close me down," he said, adding that the lawsuit could throw his 500 employees out of work. But he refused to comment further, saying., "This issue is very politicized. It's the government that should respond."

Natural Resources Minister Guy Chevrette, asked by *The Nation* for his comment at a press conference, refused to give his views.

## FOUR TROPHIES FOR KUNG FU CLUB



The Chisasibi Shaolin Long Fist School sent some students to Quebec City on March 7 for a tournament called the 18th Eastern Canada Championship.

They went there by road and came back with four trophies and medals with only six participants.

The students who went there were David Sam, Leslie Herodier, Mario Desgagne, Chantale Senechal, Reggie Tomatuk and myself, the instructor (sifu) Jean Lauzier.

Chantale Senechal won second place in the green-belts category (forms), Jean Lauzier took a fourth in the black-belts category (forms), Chantale Senechal powered to second in combat for the green-belts category, and Reggie Tomatuk came in third in combat in white belts.

The other participants performed very well too. David Sam, Leslie Herodier and Mario Desgagne all won their first combat and David won a second one.

The competition was fierce with so many participants in their category. (I didn't enter the sparring competition because I also had to work as a judge.)

We would have liked to have more people from the school participating, but it's hard to organize the trip by road.

We wished to use the Cree Nation bus of Chisasibi, but we found the rate too expensive with the fundraising we are doing for our upcoming martial arts show in Chisasibi on May 30.

We are looking to go to another tournament in Quebec City on April 18. This one will be bigger and we wish to have 25 to 30 students from our group of 50 participating in it. This tournament is the 18th annual Quebec World Open Karate Championships.

We are asking different organizations to help us for the transportation. Call me at (819) 855-2318 or David Sam at (819) 855-3048.

Finally, we also want to go to the Toronto region at the end of June to a Wushu and Kung Fu tournament. This one would be really good for us since Kung Fu is the martial art we are doing

Stay tuned for more information concerning our show on May 30!



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Boy's (Under 17 yrs)	200	6/10	800	400	
Mini Boys (12 & under)	100	4/8	500	250	_
Women's Open Class (18 yrs & up)	500	8/10	2000	1500	500
Girl's Class (Under 17 yrs)	200	6/10	800	400	_
Mini Girls (12 & under)	100	4/8	500	250	_

\*\*All prize amounts are estimates. The amounts are subject to change depending on the number of teams that register.

\*\*The first teams to register and pay their registration fees in full before the deadline will be accepted.

NO EXCEPTIONS. All other teams will be placed on stand-by basis.

We will also have the following contest:

	Entry Fee	Category	Prize
Free Throw Contest	10	Open	*
Knock Out Contest	5	Open	*

There will be no changes once the Schedule has been made (Tuesday, April 14th).

There will be a penalty fee of \$100.00 imposed on the team that wished to make the changes (see rules #15,16,17 & 18)

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER:** Friday, April 15th, 1998 @ 5 p.m.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

John Pash or Stella Bearskin at the Cree Nation of Chisasibi Office 855-2878

## PROTESTING MURDER INC. IN MEXICO

by William Nicholls and Neil Diamond

Members of the Kahnawake Mohawk community, supporters and Mexican Indians held a walk on March 16 to protest against a proposed "Oaxaca-Kahnawake Trade and Commerce Convention," also known as Project O.K. Project O.K. would set up an international trade board having powers over Mohawks and Iroquois art and crafts.

The massacre of 45 Mexican Indians in Acteal, Mexico, though, is what stands out in some Native minds. Twenty-one women, nine men, 14 children and one baby under a year were gunned down.

This is what protesters say is shameful about the Mohawk leadership entering into a deal involving people who practice "Indian genocide."

Joe Stacey, one of the band council workers, was a pallbearer of a coffin representing the massacred Indians. It led the procession to the local band office. Demonstrators talked about the deal and how the Mexican government isn't suppressing the paramilitary groups hunting aboriginals. Humanrights organizations say state law enforce-



ment officers "arrest individuals arbitrarily" (in the region). Killers are rarely brought to trial

Surprisingly, an announcement came from the council. Chief Joe Norton would speak to the crowd. He said the deal was needed for a better Mohawk future. He had to worry about the next generation of Mohawks finding work and said this would help the community's economy. None of this moved the protestors who claimed Norton would be personally profiting from Project O.K. "Listen to them, Joe," could be heard as various protesters berated Norton about the Band's dealing with Mexico.



Violet Quinney, a Cree from Saskatchewan, and John Goodleaf, a Kahnawake Mohawk, have joined forces to raise money for the Indian survivors of Killings in Mexico. To date they have raised over \$5,200.

People who are interested in helping can call 514-635-5719 and ask for Violet or make donations to the Kahnawake Caisse Populaire (transit #30539-815, account #80805).



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## OUR WEEK WITH ELIJAH AND HIS FAMILY

By Ernest Webb and Catherine Bainbridge

We arrived at Elijah and Marion Cox's camp on the 10th of March. The camp is made up of several cabins used by different family members. It is wedged in between the LG-2 airport and the dikes that snake along their family's traditional hunting grounds. The camp is in an area called Aauschikaasich. I asked him about Udaaunaansh and he said that is "actually across the river." More than 50 percent of their hunting ground is under the reservoir. The land that is left manages to provide a minimal supply of food for them. You'd be hard pressed to find a piece of land that has no traces of "development" on it. You'd also be hard pressed to sense any bitterness in Elijah's voice. "We had been raised to view everyone equally."

We had come in with a film crew to film Elijah and his family at his camp. Elijah, a holder of a B. Ed. from the University of Chicoutimi, has been a teacher for 17 years. Marion also holds a B. Ed. and a Cree Literacy diploma from McGill, and has been a teacher for nine years. Elijah retired last summer. I remember Elijah from when I was a kid at school. His laughter was a constant presence during Cree Culture class. Going back to visit was no different. We want to thank Elijah, Marion and Josie for the hospitality during our stay at their camp.



Elijah with his Grandson Matthew



Elijah and son Josie set a beaver trap with Yuliusie recording.

PHOTOS BY ERNEST WEBB



Marion scraping a caribou hide.



Marion preparing the net.



Elijah demonstrating the message sytem for the trail. In the picture is a message giving the direction and distance of the person traveling. If the stick is lower it means the distance is shorter. If there is a piece of fur tied to the end there is big game killed. If there is a tree with the branches stripped in the middle, it means that there is bad news.



Josie with a beaver.

## احت"له ا

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o"CDrc.

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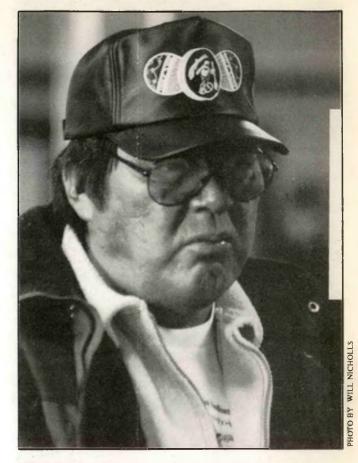
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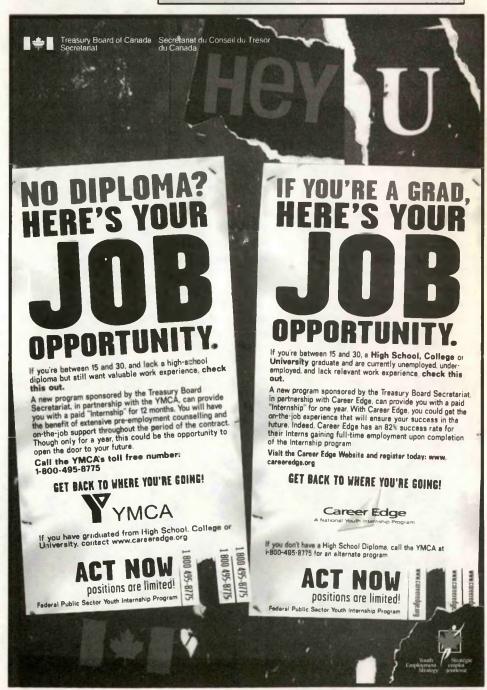
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## Wellness Walk

#### By Jimmy Gunner

The reason why I did the Wellness Walk was because I wanted to show how it is like in the bush from where I was raised. There seems to be people who just talk about Cree culture and don't actually show it. There also seems to be things that are kept hidden. There seem to be people who don't want to show how difficult it was for their parents to raise them.

It was difficult for the older people to raise their children. There was nothing in their lives to help them raise their children. Many times I thought that I should show how I was raised. When someone needs help, I took my snowshoes. I wanted to show my help when someone is going through hard times. When I was

raised, my parent told me how it was like when trying to give me life.

When my friend was having bad times, I wanted to help him.

Because that was what I was taught by my parent to help when

someone was in need of help. During the walk, I thought about many

things we go through in life.

For the elders, the, are given the places that are already run down to stay in. That was what I thought about. I thought I should show from where I was raised from so there can be a place for the elders to have some peace of mind. That was why I did the Wellness Walk. I wanted to thank the elders for raising me. I wanted to help



them. I looked at my life and thought that it was time for me help them because they should be the ones resting after going through what they've gone through. For the elders, we should thank them. We should show it through our Cree culture. That was why I did the Wellness Walk. We are truthful when we show the things we want to do by our actions.

I used nothing at all to help me during the time I was gone. I only used the thing that would help me walk on top of the snow. That was the only thing I wore. There was a difference in my life. I felt different. I discovered something when I went there. I found out that

I helped someone. That was the reason why I walked. I am very happy that I finished what I wanted to do. I saw how it helped the people and that was what affected me. It touched me a lot in my life. I did what my parent taught me. I was told to help when someone has difficulty. I was told to at least try to help that person in need.

I thank the elders because they taught me a bit of their knowledge from the bush. They virtually gave their lives in the activities they did to raise us. I thank them. I am also thankful that I was able to do what I wanted to do. I know that it has positively affected at least one person when I came back.



#### By Kenny Wapachee

I clearly wanted to tell that I am happy that I walked in this Wellness Walk. I thought a lot about trying to help myself to make my life better because I have abused bad stuff. That is the reason why I walked is to help myself.

lam glad that I found this man to help me so I that I could go along with him on the Wellness Walk. I am very thankful. During my walk, l always thought that I would be helping myself. I knew that I would be doing better everyday since this man, Jimmy Gunner, gave me advice all the time. I thank him for helping me. I know that this walk helped me a lot.

I know that this walk will help me because that was where my parents lived from also. That is how I look at it. I got the help from when I was in the bush. I can say that this walk was difficult for me. lasked the Great Spirit to help me - to take all the negative stuff that

was in my life. I wanted to get it out of my life and leave all of the bad stuff when I was in the bush.

Since I came back, I feel a lot different. I have good thoughts. I sleep well also whereas before I didn't sleep well. I had difficulty sleeping. Today, I sleep well. I am very thankful that I took this upon myself. It is very hard for someone to quit the things he used to do. I know this for myself because it was difficult for me also. But I know that I will be doing better everyday. I thank the Great Spirit for helping walk through the day.

I am thankful that I did this because I wanted to quit the things I used to abuse. I do know that it isn't good. I am not shy to talk about the bad things I abused whereas before I wanted to keep it hidden. Today, I don't try to hide it because I know it will help me when I talk about it.

This man, who I accompanied, has helped me a lot by talking to me and giving me advice all the time. I will always remember the things he has told me. I'll hold on to his words because I consider him my friend. Hove this man. I selected this man to help me. I plainly say that this man who I picked out also loves the bush. He is very capable also because he was raised from the bush. I am grateful that I found this man. And I thank the Great Spirit that he gave life to this man on this earth to do the work of helping people. I know that he has helped many people. He knows how to help the people because he was gone though it himself. He's had the experience. I know that he can help the people.

I am thankful for this man also. I can always thank him every time I see him. I will always remember what he has said. I would be glad if this Wellness Walk was done every year because it helps the people in what they go through in their lives. I also thank my wife, my children and my parents. I want to tell them that I am sorry for what I have done to them in the past.

#### Communiqué de Presse



L'édition 1998 du répertoire des journaux du Réseau Sélect, outil indispensable de planification, est désormais disponible. Ce bottin présente la couverture des journaux représentés par Le Réseau Sélect répartis dans les seize (16) régions géographiques du Québec. Ce que vous y trouverez : une carte géographique de la couverture de chacun des hebdomadaires avec une fiche démographique, la liste des zones d'influences et leurs codes postaux ainsi que le nombre de foyers et de commerces recensés. Les Hebdos Sélect du Québec inc c'est 2 800 000 exemplaires, 115 journaux, 1 seul appel téléphonique pour la planification et la réservation et une seule addresse

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David Cheezo

#### Recorded by Ernest Webb Transcribed and translated by Brian Webb

My name is David Cheezo. I am 81 years old.

I will talk about when I was told of legends long ago. The elders that I heard telling of legends told the truth. This was during the time of when the things that exist today weren't around. When the people didn't have guns yet. They just had their axes and bows. It was during that time. That is what I'll talk about.

The people were very hungry. Some of them couldn't go out now from the teepee. Only some of them had strength. One man was told to walk around. There was an elder at that camp. The man left looking for signs of caribou because that was the only way to survive long ago. There were many caribou long ago. When seeing a herd-there were sometimes over 40 caribou. When they were killed, there was plenty of food. The man returned to his camp and told the people that he saw signs of many caribou. The herd must have been on a lake. That evening the man returned, the elder of the camp went out. I don't know if I'm telling this legend correctly but the old man went out and killed one or two of those caribou.

That night, the people ate. This was where the people got their strength back from eating the two caribou. In the morning, the people went to hunt the caribou. Of the caribou that were there, two of the caribou were just bones. Those were the ones the people ate the night before. Two of the caribou that were killed were just mostly

continued on page 19



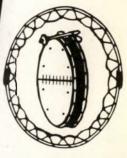


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skin and bones. This was the legend that was told. That was how the people's lives got better, when they are the caribou during the night but they were still in the caribou herd.

It was the old man who did this. He was the one that took care of the situation when he knew that signs of caribou were found. They ate that night and hunted the caribou the next day. This was the legend that was told.

I think that the elder long ago must have done surprising things. He must have been dependable as a clock. Today we look at a clock and ask what time it is. The people long ago must have depended on what the elder was looking after. He told of everything that he did. That was why the caribou are like that - the ones brought back to camp. Those were the ones that they ate the night before. The people didn't talk back to the old man because they knew it was the truth.

The people were very fortunate with the food after that. They must have occasionally killed caribou. And so they had a good life after. This was the legend that I had heard. The one telling the legend was amazed at this one also. He was surprised that the caribou were eaten while they were still in the caribou herd. The people knew later that it was the caribou they ate the night before when they were butchering them. Two of them were just skin and bones.

Another story I will talk about how wise I am. We had our spring camp over past Kaamichishtaauwaayaach. We were going to start our journey, during the time of the hardship here in Eastmain. I was already hunting a little bit that time. A bag of flour that was a dollar, was given to us. Also half of the lard. We were given a bit of sugar also.

Water fowl was expected to migrate. I was told to go hunting sometimes. My father wasn't around at that time. He was hunting separately from us. One morning, there was nothing for us to eat. Fortunately, there were rabbit snares set. That morning my mother shook me to wake me up. I was still asleep. My mother woke me up and said, "Get up. I see things flying towards us but I don't know what." I get up running. Luckily, I had boots. Well, there were only sealskin boots at that time. I put those on immediately and ran out of the teepee. They were already flying over. They were snow geese. They turned and flew with the wind. They were already flying past our camp and that was where I shot at them.

I walked back in and my mother said to me, "The geese you were shooting at seemed to be screaming." She thought that I had done something to the snow geese. I hadn't eaten that morning. There was nothing to eat for breakfast.

I put on my boots properly and walked onto the snow. The snow wasn't that high. At this time, it was already wet on the ice. I looked over at one of the ponds. I was looking over at the point. There seemed to be something fluttering in the wind. It was a very windy morning. There seemed to be something fluttering in the wind at the narrow point. I walked towards it. Then as I got close, I recognized that it was a snow goose lying there. This was the direction that they flew. I had apparently hit it. I returned home with it.

When water fowl was killed long ago, everyone got to have a taste of it. My mother was inside the teepee. She was the only one awake. My siblings still hadn't gotten up. I put the goose by her side and said to her, "I had apparently killed a snow goose." She was extremely pleased. She sat at the goose and started to work on it. She started plucking it. She singed it after she finished it. Well, we used an open fire at that time. She singed it after she had finished working on it. When a goose was killed long ago, it was completely plucked with the wings and feet still attached. That was how she

continued on page 21

## Chisasibi Skating Club

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STORY

made it look. She cooked the snow goose and we ate. We wouldn't have had breakfast if I was too late for those snow geese. When the rabbit snares were checked, sometimes there was nothing to be brought back.

There were Inuit at the island called Wiibichiinikw. They hunted for seals in the spring time. The Inuit wanted to sell the seals even though nobody was given much when trading at the store. My father was seal hunting also. This was his work during that spring. When something was killed, it was cooked. There was also fried bannock and rabbits. Squirrels used to be cooked also. Fortunately, there was some things in little quantity. This was time when the animals couldn't be killed much. That winter was very poor. Yes, we were hungry. It

was only until the water fowl started to fly in, that was when my father was able to kill them.

Early in that spring, as soon as the water was exposed on the river, my father said that we were to board our canoe to hunt for muskrat. We also fished. When we killed muskrat and the pelts were dried, the people went to the store to get supplies. Our only means of travel was paddling in canoes. The water was already open and clear of ice. Sometimes over 10 muskrats were killed and that was when



Daisy Cheezo

we were able to get a bit of supplies at the store. That was when we were in a better situation. We were eating fish and muskrat and we were doing well.

That was what happened long ago. Everyone was in that situation all around here. All the people were in a sorry situation. It was only after the water fowl started to migrate, the people's lives got better and were able to store some the food. They kept everything and didn't throw anything away. Only the digested stomach contents, that was what they must have thrown away long ago.

I never heard my father to say, "I will sing." He didn't use the songs. The songs that were sung were already gone as he remembered it. It was his father who used the songs. I had heard that his father had a drum. I believed my father when he told the stories because he was the one that saw it and heard about it. He was told of the legends.

We cannot talk about what happened long ago. I don't think it will be nice to do that because we didn't see it and there might be a chance that we will tell it wrongly. We should only talk about what we have seen and heard about from the past. When someone tries to find out things from the past, they cannot be told not to do it. They should do what they want to do.

The story I told, it is still possible that I told it the wrong way. I don't really know the purpose of legends and how they are to be used. If I knew it more completely, I would be telling it more properly. Many times I have thought about this. There were many legends that have been told to me. And I didn't think to tell the legends much. I was afraid to tell about them the wrong way because it was too long ago and I didn't witness it myself.

We thank you for doing this to us - trying to find out things. I will say that I truly thank you. The work that you do is very important. You did it on your own and were not told to do it. This is why I tell you that I thank you.

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## LES MINES INSET

The Troilus Project is a division of Inmet Mining Corporation, a Canadian mining company engaged in exploration, development and processing of base and precious metals internationally.

The Troilus Project is situated 175 Km north of Chibougamau and is accessible by way of the Route du Nord. The employees will work on a 4-3 or 7-7 shift schedule and will be provided with room and board at its first-class camp on site. The company is presently searching for candidates to fill the following positions at its Troilus Project, an open-pit gold mining operation.

**OPENING No. 030:** 

### The Position: Millwright

The Millwright installs, maintains and repairs milling, crushing and mechanical equipment, along with welding and piping.

#### **Employment Requirements:**

- Completion of secondary school is usually required or a commitment to complete secondary school or possess relative experience.
- Completion of a three to four (3-4) year apprenticeship program or a combination of over five (5) years of work experience in the trade.
- Trade certification is an asset.
- Welding experience is required.
- Five to ten (5-10) years experience in mill environment.
- Experience on large SAG, Bail-mills, Gyratory and cone crushers is required.
- · Basic knowledge of French or English

#### **Main Duties:**

The Millwright performs some or all of the following duties:

- Reads diagrams and schematic drawings to determine work procedures.
- Installs stationary mill machinery and mechanical equipment according to layout plans using hand and power tools.
- Operates hoisting and lifting devices to position machinery and parts during the installation, sets-up and repairs of machinery.
- Inspects and examines machinery and equipment to detect and investigate irregularities and malfunctions.
- Adjusts machinery and repairs or replaces defective parts.
- Cleans, lubricates and performs other routine maintenance work on machinery.
- Assembles or repairs machinery and equipment prior to installation using hand, power tools and welding equipment.
- Installs and repairs piping
- Installs and/or modifies equipment as required by production.
- Performs other related duties

#### THE CONDITIONS:

Inmet Mining Corporation (Troilus Project) offers competitive wages and a comprehensive benefits package. These positions are open to men and women. Inmet Mining Corporation encourages and promotes Cree hiring. Inmet thanks all applicants for their interest, but advises that only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Interested candidates are asked to forward their résumé, at the latest April 30, 1998 to:

#### TROILUS PROJECT

P.O. Box 8700 Chibougamau, Québec G8P 3A9

**Attention:** Human Resources Manager

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## The Twilight Zone

By Thelma & Louise Alive 'n' Bitching!

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Happy belated Birthday to our dear rambunctious ram. Everything is la-di-da for you really. Plan days of non-stop action. You have plenty of energy to spare you square. So take care.

Taurus (April 20-May 19)

Listen to call of the wild. You are becoming more impulsive, go with it. Your confidence streak is unbeatable. You are being testy with those around you. Listen to what makes your heart pound and you won't go wrong.

Gemini (May 20-June 21)

Schmooze or loose buddy. What are you waiting for? Quit pressing on your life "snooze" button. Your scheming mind will work wonders for you. Just gotta get up and manipulate it to your specifications.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

If you can't get the cuddling you deserve, get a teddy bear. At least you won't spend anymore lonely nights. You will finally be able to brag about having someone in your bed. Make all of your "friends" jealous!

Leo (July 23-Aug 23)

Arrange for change. This means that you should plan a trip: in reality or just fake it. You're good at that. You are getting tired of the same old, boring products that your mind produces. Take a risk for once.

Virgo (Aug 24-Sept 22)

Let your imagination run totally wild. It does good to get of a rut. No holds barred. Let go off your inhibitions. Otherwise, fear of the unknown will further drive you into the hole that you call a life.

Libra (Sept 23-Oct 22)

Drop the attitude. It's just not working for you anymore. You need to assert your independence. Now is your chance to test

your wings of wisdom. Take it or leave it. You'll be sorry if don't. Go conservative. Buy an RRSP.

Scorpio (Oct 23- Nov 21)

Indulge in the unknown. A little deviance never hurt anyone really. Test the dark side of the moon and drop the holier than thou attitude. The quality of our

life might change. For better or worse, who knows or cares, eh!

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 22)

Get a bucket full of pennies. Drop them down a well. Maybe then, and only then will your greatest wish come true. By the way, make no promises unless you can keep them. You have what we call loveaphobia complex, deal with it.

Capricorn (Dec 23-Jan 19)

Blow-ups are on the way. Be on your guard. Don't say the wrong thing. You can hook up with a long lost love. Maybe. We're just guessing. But that gives you some hope at least, doesn't it. As long as there is hope, right?!

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18)

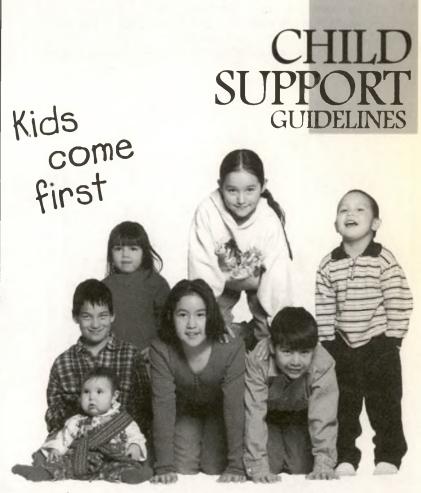
Give in to all forbidden urges. Nothing is sacred anymore. You have learned this the hard way. You want true happiness bad enough and you can't even

taste it! Take a taste test. You're turning into a hot shot in hot spots. Ouch!

Pisces (Feb 19-March 20)

Your difficult temperament is not getting you anywhere. Don't

run too far, you don't know where you're going. Please, if someone says jump to you-don't say how high. You don't want to look like the fools around you now do you?



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## Between Friends Questionnaire results

A big thank-you goes out to all the readers who responded to my questionnaire. I learned a lot from your answers, and will do my best to refer to them in future issues. This column was originally aimed at women, so I was surprised to hear from so many male readers - thanks, guys! Keep reading.

Below are descriptions of the average female and male reader of Between Friends. As you can see, the men seem to be more comfortable with their lives all around. This causes some concern, as we women seem to be searching for ways to improve ourselves, physically, socially and professionally.

Then again, maybe we just have higher expectations of ourselves, since we are, after all, the superior sex. (Just joking, you guys.) There will be more on how to improve your lifestyle, self-image, and ways to stay inspired in future issues.

### Average female reader: • ages 20-29

- from Cree communities in Ouebec
- Thappily attached with children
- working outside the home
- somewhat happy with job
- financial situation is okay, but could be better
- social life is good but not the best
- not at all happy with hairstyle
- not at all happy with weight
- **☞NOBODY'S** exercising!
- \*see doctor only once a year or not at all

#### Average male reader:

- Tages anywhere between 19 to over 40
- From Cree communities in Quebec or Manitoba
- extremely happily attached with children
- working outside the home
- Thappy with job
- pretty happy with financial situation
- social life is good
- pretty happy with hairstyle
- feeling okay about weight, but could be better
- exercise every now and then
- don't see the doctor more than once a year

Most of you would like to read more about: inspirational stories, nutrition and exercise, fashion and entertainment. A lot of you requested relationship advice. Here is a chance for you to send in questions, problems, fears, poems and stories (funny, sad or serious) on your relationships - I will try to use them and help out in any way.

Fax them to 514-278-9914 or mail them to *The Nation*'s address as found on page 4, care of Between Friends.

Look for the second half of the questionnaire results in next issue's Between Friends.

> BY DEANTHA EDMUNDS



Mascarade

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### CLASSIFIEDS

#### 100-BIRTHS

Welcome to my new baby nephew Aaron Tyrone who was born on February 19 in Gatineau. I nearly freaked out when I heard the ambulance got your pregnant mommy to the hospital just in time. I guess you really wanted out eh? But such a cute little one you are. His proud parents are Angela Etapp and Floyd Hester (Wask-Ottawa) Love you lots little one, your auntie Rachel and Karl Simard (Mtl) Congratulations new parents!

We would like to congratulate Albert and Cheryl Trapper on their beautiful baby girl Ryanne June Trapper, born on March 18, 1998 at 7:05 p.m., weighing 8 lbs.. We wish all the best, happiness and joy. With love, Stanley and Ella and Tristan (was)

Congratulations to Ancita Bugden on the safe arrival of her precious beautiful baby girl Diana Rose. Born December 5th, 98, weighing 7 lbs., 14 oz. What wonderful gift to be an auntie again. I will always have a place in my heart and tons of hugs and kisses for your sweet angel. Love, Ida.

#### 101-BIRTHDAYS

Alicia Diana. Happy 2nd birthday to our sister Clarissa Dawn Jessie. Love you Alicia and Diana Esau (Wask).



Birthday greetings to our teacher Daphne Savidies. her birthday is on April 1st. This is from your students at Sabtuan Adult Education. It's nice having you as a teacher!!! Have a wonderful day and we wish you all the wonderful things that one can offer. P.S. Sorry you can't have a day off.

Happy birthday to a very special lady. Our mother/grandmother Mary Cheezo celebrating her big day on March 27, 1998. Have a wonderful day mom/gran and many more to come. We love you very much! With love, your children and grandchildren.

Happy 2nd birthday to my buddy Vincent MacDonald on April 3rd. I hope you get lots of toys, so that I can come over and play with you. Want a yogurt? With lots of hugs, kisses and best wishes, Trisha Lazarus and family (Chis)

A very special happy birthday to Robbie Mayappo on April 7th. It was only a few months ago when we almost lost you! And to this day we still thank God that you are still here with us, to share with you your special birthday. Love always, mom, dad and you sisters and brothers.

Birthday greeting to a special girl who is very cute and cuddly, our great granddaughter, niece and cousin Kiana Alison Bryanna Aries celebrating her 1st birthday on April 4, 1998. May your special day be filled with lots of fun and surprises. With lots of love, from great granny, grampa Cheezo, Aunties, Uncles and cousins. especially your little pal Kandice.

Happy birthday to my only niece Jacqueline Lena Dixon on April 29. May your wishes come true on your 8th birthday. Also to my lovely nephew Derrick Jason Mianscum on April 23. May your wishes also come true on your 2nd birthday. I love you both from all my heart. Have fun. Love always, your aunt, Lena A. Bosum. (Ouje-Bougoumou)

My brother, it's your birthday again and I can't help wondering where the years have gone when we were just little kids. Reaching out for each other, laughing, hugging, playing and smiling. And on this special day I can't help remembering these days. Happy 17th birthday to an extremely wonderful and caring brother Thomas Abraham Bosum on April 17th, 1998. Hope you have fun on this special day. it's on a Friday eh? Anyways, don't party too much or else that great knowledge in your head will be wiped out. I care for you very much, even though we have some tough times. Love, sis, Naomi R. Bosum in O.J.

Happy 4th birthday to Desiree Ottereyes in Mtl on April 20th. We miss you so much and can't wait to see you. We'll be sending your gifts by mail. Say his to mommy for us. With lots of love, hugs and best wishes, Tanitam, Tyson, Trisha, Jeannie and Bill.

Birthday wishes going out to someone very special in my life Rosie Cappissisit. Everybody calls her Lossie Gookum. She will be celebrating her birthday on April 2, 98. Gookum, you know that I love you very much and you'll always be in my heart. Take a rest on that day cuz you deserve the best. Love always, your grand-daughter Rita Capissisit. xxx (OJ)

**Birthday greetings** going out to our brother Roger Steve Myles Jolly on March 20th, 1998. have a safe and wonderful trip. happy birthday. With love, your sister Dinah, your brothers Clayton and Norman George Jolly. Waskaganish.

Happy birthday to our loving mother and wife Ella L. Saganash on March 25, 98. From your son Tristan and your husband in was.

Happy 8th birthday to our baby brother Curtis Blackned in Hull whose birthday is on March 23. Hope your day is as special as you are bro. We love you and miss you so much! Happy birthday to you Stone cold AND many more to come! With love always, your sisters and niece in Mtl. (Maxine, Deidre and baby Chantal) xoxoxoxoxox.

Happy 1st birthday to Vinny Lebizay On April 2, 1998. We love you dearly. from Mom (Betsy), Dad (Richard) and big sister Vanessa.

Happy 15th birthday to an extremely cute guy in Nemaska, Wayne Jolly on March 30th. I wish I was there for you on this special day, but instead I'm miles away, just thinking of you! Anyways, I hope this wonderful fantasy of you will once turn into reality! Love ya! From a secret admirer! xo1/2.

To my uncle Ricky who always has a way of showing me what's wrong and what's right, even though I'm naughty or not. With love from your brattiest but loving nephew Dylan Jordan Davis. happy birthday on the 28th of March.

Happy belated birthday wish going out to Daniel Bosum who will be celebrating this special day on April 15, 98. Have fun and don't party too much. Love always, RitaXXX P.S. Don't party at all. (AM) Happy birthday!

BIRTHDAY WISHES GOING OUT TO OUR SISTER WENDY CELINA GEORGEKISH. HAPPY 11TH BIRTH-DAY ON APRIL 10TH. MAY THIS DAY BE SPECIAL FOR YOU. WE love you. From Mindy, Beverly, Bradly, Sherry, Kelly. Wask.

Happy birthday to our daughter Wendy Georgekish. Happy 11th birthday on the 10th of April. Happy birthday and we love you so much. From mom and dad, Dawna and William. Wask.

Happy birthday to my granddaughter, Jalicia on March 26, 1998. She will be six years old. May you have a great day. Love you lots. Hugs and kisses from Gookum Janie (Chis) Also birthday greetings to my niece Anita Pachanos on March 19. (Janie)

Birthday wishes going out to a special friend of ours. Her name is Amy Mianscum who will be turning 17 on May 2, 98. Hope you'll have a great time on your day. From your sisters that cares about you. Angel and Rita. P.S. don't even think of having a party.

Birthday greetings to our caring, loving and understanding brother Ricky W. Gilpin on March 28. Don't forget to invite us when you have a Molson Dry, even if It's just six pack Just as long as we share all the laughs. We love you and always from your youngest brother Jonathan and your sister who you always listen to, support and respect of who she is.

Happy 11th birthday going out to our handsome son Roger Steve Myles Jolly on March 20th, 98. So your plans on your birthday going North to Chisasibi. Of course, it's your lifetime pass on Aircreebec. We remember when you came into this world on the wings of Aircreebec. It was so precious and a beautiful day. Enjoy your special day as you are. Wishing you many more years to come and we love you son. Love, mom and dad, Sheila and John in Waskaganish.



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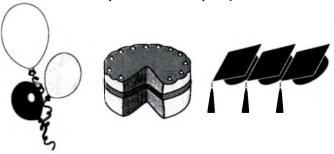
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